

HOUSE BILL 2526

By Turner M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary  
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902 is amended by adding the following as new appropriately designated subdivisions

( ) "Public community college" means an eligible two-year postsecondary institution operated by the Tennessee board of regents that is denoted as a community college or a technical community college.

( ) "Tennessee free community college scholarship" means the scholarship that is awarded under § 49-4-938 and is funded from net proceeds of the state lottery.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9 is amended by adding the following as a new section:

§ 49-4-938.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Free Community College Program".

(b) To be eligible for a Tennessee free community college scholarship as an entering freshman, a student shall:

(1) Meet the requirements of §§ 49-4-904 and 49-4-905;

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible Tennessee public community college no later than sixteen (16) months after graduation from high school; and

(3)

(A) Attain an ACT composite score of at least 19;

(B) Attain an ACT English score of at least 19; and

(C) Attain an ACT mathematics score of at least 19; and

(4) Apply for all available nonrepayable financial aid;

(c) To remain eligible to receive the scholarship, a student shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply as required for Tennessee HOPE scholarships. At any time at which continuing academic eligibility is checked under § 49-4-911, a student receiving the Tennessee free community college scholarship shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5.

(d) A student may receive a Tennessee free community college scholarship until the first of the following events:

(1) The student has earned an associate degree; or

(2) The student has received the scholarship for a total of sixty (60) credit hours.

(e) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a Tennessee free community college scholarship shall cover the cost of maintenance fees and other mandatory fees.

(f)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), the award of a Tennessee free community college scholarship shall be in lieu of any Tennessee HOPE scholarship for which the student would otherwise be eligible.

(2) A student, who receives an associate degree under this program and achieves the cumulative grade point average required under § 49-4-911 for continuation of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the end of the semester in which the student receives the associate degree, may apply for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship to attend an eligible four-year postsecondary institution seeking a baccalaureate degree. Such student shall meet all applicable general requirements for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship and shall apply for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship and be admitted to and enroll in an eligible four-year postsecondary institution within one (1) year of receiving an associate degree.

(g) TSAC shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary for implementation of this program. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

. SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.